



Texas Department of  
Family and Protective Services

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# Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

Stakeholder Webinar

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January 2019



## Priority 9

We will maintain sharp focus on combatting human trafficking and devote special services to trafficking victims.

- Commissioner Hank Whitman

## DFPS

# Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Division (HTCE)

Established June 2017

# What Do We Do?

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HTCE supports the development of policy and best practices, and implementation of programs that are:

- Survivor informed,
- Trauma responsive,
- Victim centered, and
- Evidence based (where possible).





# What is Human Trafficking?

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Human Trafficking (HT) is a violent crime and a serious violation of human rights.

Types of HT:

- Forced labor, and
- Sexual exploitation





## HT can affect anyone:

- Children and adults,
- Women and men,
- Any race,
- Any socioeconomic status, and
- Any educational level.

# Sex Trafficking



This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at [www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

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Research shows the following are especially vulnerable to HT exploitation:

- Youth with complex trauma,
- Youth with child welfare histories,
- Current and transitioning foster youth, and
- Youth who run from foster care.

## **Texas Family Code §261.001(1)(g)**

compelling or encouraging the child in a manner to engage in sexual conduct that constitutes an offense of trafficking of persons under §20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code, prostitution under §43.02(b), Penal Code, or compelling prostitution under §43.05(a)(2), Penal Code.

## **Texas Family Code §261.001(1)(I)**

knowingly causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a child to be trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under Section 20A.02(a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), Penal Code, or the failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under any of those sections.

SXTR: Penal Code Section [§20A.02\(a\)\(7\), or \(8\)](#)

LBTR: Penal Code Section [§20A.02\(a\)\(5\), \(6\)](#)

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## Identification and Recovery

- Investigations of Familial Trafficking
- Maximize expertise of Special Investigators
- Training all staff
- Developed HT Response Protocol
- HTCE coordination with all stages of service for improved outcomes



## **DFPS must be able to identify when HT or risk of HT exists.**

When youth are recovered from missing or runaway events, DFPS must assess if an incident of HT occurred during their absence.

- Not every missing child is exploited.
- Not every child who is a victim of sex trafficking has had a missing episode.
- Not every child victim of sex trafficking will be in CPS Conservatorship.
- Most victims do not readily self-identify.

When a child is in CPS conservatorship and is missing, it is **extremely important that the agency put forth every effort to quickly locate the child.**





# **DFPS HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROTOCOL**



Dallas, Tarrant, Harris, Travis and, Bexar Counties only  
Starts March 2019

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## Our youth



The HT Protocol supports:

1. Preventing Sex Trafficking and Families Act 2014
2. Victim Identification
3. Service Planning
4. Collaboration



The HT Protocol outlines the agency's expected response in three critical areas:

1. Human Trafficking Investigations
2. Youth at Risk
3. Youth at High Risk



# HT Response Protocol: Youth at Risk

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**Youth at Risk** are defined as youth 12 years or older, in DFPS conservatorship who have had five or more placements.





# **YOUTH AT HIGH RISK FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



Children in DFPS conservatorship, who are missing, or on runaway status.

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## Commercial Sexual Exploitation- Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

- Aids in detecting **indicators of sexual exploitation.**
  - Designed to ensure earlier identification of sex trafficking, and protect youth from prolonged abuse and violence.
  - An integration tool
- ≠ **Not** a diagnostic tool, or
- ≠ **Not** a structured interview with a youth.

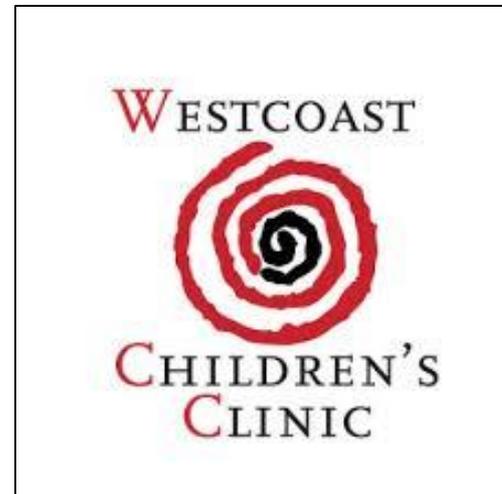


# Commercial Sexual Exploitation- Identification Tool (CSE-IT):

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The completed CSE-IT results in a total number that indicates the youth's **level of human trafficking indicators** as:

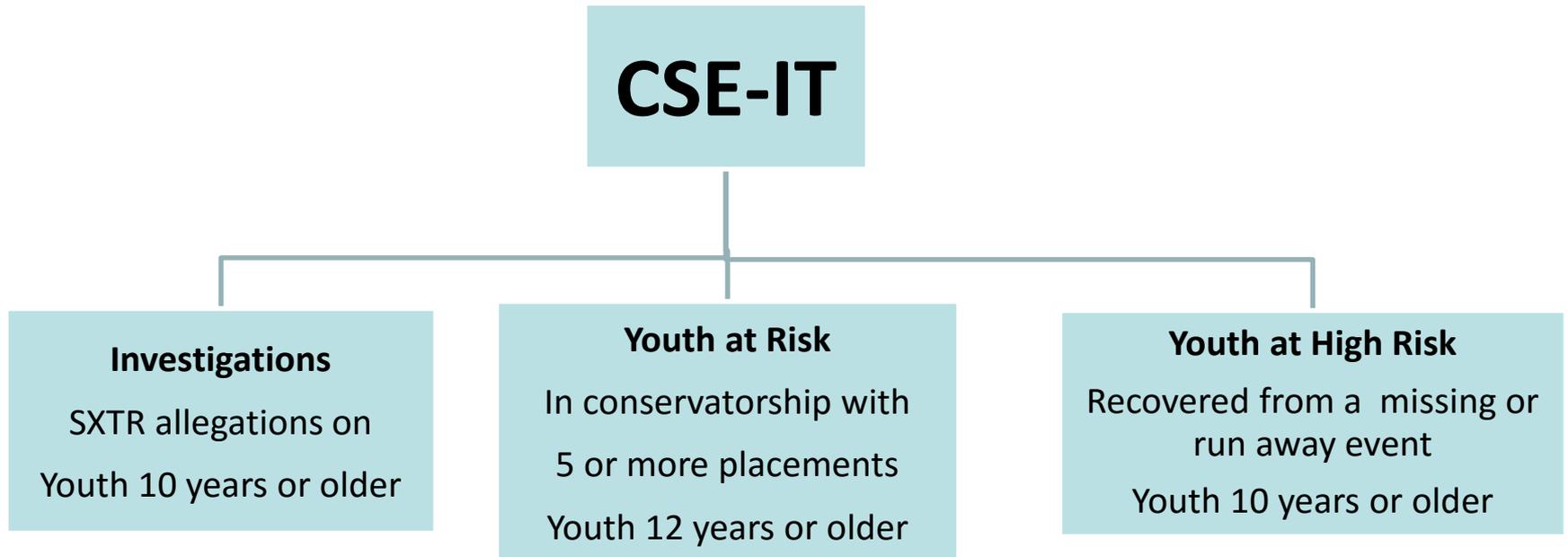
- No Concern,
- Possible Concern, or
- Clear Concern.





# DFPS HT Response Protocol

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## **IMPACT Modernization 2.0 will improve data**

- Suspected and confirmed HT victims, and
- Missing and runaway youth.

## **Services**

Assess and expand Continuum of Care for youth in Foster Care.

- Coordinated Care Teams
  - Human Trafficking Advocate Agencies
  - HT Summit in Houston
  - DFPS led Administration for Children and Families Region VI Human Trafficking Workgroup
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## Care Coordination Teams (CCT)

Established by the Office of the Texas Governor-Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) across the state to provide youth victims of sex trafficking with a continuum of care.



## **HT Advocate Agencies (HTAA)**

Provide Child Sex Trafficking Advocates that are specifically trained to offer a variety of services that may include:

- Crisis intervention,
- Ongoing case management, and
- Healthy, supportive long-term relationships for survivors.



## Recovery Meetings for Confirmed Victims

Established after DFPS learns that a youth is missing or has run away from care who is a confirmed victim of trafficking.



The goal is to ensure the appropriate actions are being taken to locate the youth as quickly as possible and appropriate interventions and services are initiated for the youth upon recovery.

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## Trafficking Allegations for Fiscal Year 2017

Allegations of sex trafficking reported to Statewide Intake’s child abuse hotline increased by 181 percent from 248 in fiscal year 2016 to 697 in fiscal year 2017 (see **Table 1**).

Allegation	FY2016	FY2017
Sex Trafficking	248	697
Labor Trafficking	45	47

The number of these allegations that led to a disposition of “Reason to Believe” rose from 23 in fiscal year 2016 to 40 in fiscal year 2017 (see **Table 2**).

Allegation	FY2016	FY2017
Sex Trafficking	23	40
Labor Trafficking	< 5	< 5

# HT and Runaways Statistics

Sixty-two\* children and youth reported being victimized while they were on run away status in fiscal year 2017, with some experiencing multiple types of victimization (see **Table 7**).

Youth that Reported Abuse	FY2016	FY2017
Reported Sex Trafficked	31	35
Reported Labor Trafficked	< 5	< 5
Reported Being Sexually Abused	20	34
Reported Being Physically Abused	8	< 5
Total Found Surveys	640	1072
Youth Who Completed Found Survey	494	782

\* Includes disclosures and multiple forms of victimizations, excludes suspected non-disclosure victims

✓ Status for **Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Travis Counties.**

- Train the Trainer has been completed
- In February, training will be completed with staff designated to execute the CSE-IT.
- First ever Memorandum of Understanding for human trafficking advocate services executed with more to follow.

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## **Strong Partnerships:**

- ✓ Office of the Texas Governor – Child Sex Trafficking Team
- ✓ Office of the Attorney General
- ✓ Texas Department of Public Safety
- ✓ Advocacy Centers of Texas
- ✓ Texas CASA
- ✓ Texas Department of Juvenile Justice
- ✓ Federal and Local Law Enforcement Entities and Prosecutors
- ✓ DFPS staff participate in over 20 local Human Trafficking Taskforces and Coalitions.



- ✓ As of December 31, 2018, 11,679 DFPS staff have completed the **Be the One: In the Fight Against Human Trafficking** training video.



<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/human-trafficking>

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## January National Human Trafficking Month:

- ✓ Human Trafficking Division collaborated with Community Engagement Specialists and our Faith-Based Specialists around the state to partner with the community on events.
- ✓ January 11, DFPS staff statewide participated in **Wear Blue Day** and captured their solidarity against trafficking by taking a photo to share on social media.
- ✓ DFPS hosted a variety of learning opportunities for our staff and community stakeholders.



- ✓ The Human Trafficking section of the DFPS website was updated and now provides robust information, events as well as local and national resources.
- ✓ Texas Communities of Faith were invited to unite in the fight against Human Trafficking by committing to pray for the victims and survivors; and for those who work to support them on Sunday, January 13, 2019 or any other Sunday in the month of January.
- ✓ Revealed DFPS's visualization of our efforts to bring Human Trafficking out of the darkness by casting a light on the issue.

# DFPS and Human Trafficking





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